

was rapid and persevering until it reached the Catfish, near its entrance into the Third Lake, where the force camped the second night from Rock River. Many Indians were now discovered by the scouts, and the main body of them were on the peninsula between the Third and Fourth lakes, at the time their pursuers were encamped on the Catfish.

In the morning of the 21st, the pursuit was continued over the ground where the city of Madison is now located, with occasional glimpses of straggling Indians—one of whom was shot near the present capitol, and left dead—until about five o'clock in the afternoon of that day, when the bluffs of the Wisconsin were reached, together with Black Hawk and his retreating band, preparing to cross the river with their women and children.

When the army arrived, the Sauks and Foxes were in the low grounds which skirt the river. The immediate commands of Colonel Dodge and Colonel Wm. L. D. Ewing were in advance of the main army, and on their arrival at the bluffs, they were met by Captain Dixon's spy company, which had preceded them, with information that the Indians were in sight. These two commands having dismounted, formed the line, and advanced to the edge of the bluffs, where they were met by the Indians, who were in pursuit of the spy company. The battle began, and the Sauks and Foxes were repulsed. The position of the advanced commands was maintained under a heavy fire for about an hour, when Colonel Henry's brigade arrived, which deploying to the right and left, formed the line of battle, leaving Colonel Dodge's command in the center. A general charge was now made upon the Indians, in which many of them were killed, and the balance driven into the bottoms of the Wisconsin, where the tall grass was reached, which was wet, and concealed the Indians, and it being nearly dark, the pursuit was continued no further.

The battle began about five o'clock in the afternoon, and about sundown the firing on both sides had mainly ceased. The American loss was one killed, and eight wounded. The loss of the Indians was sixty-eight killed in the battle,\* and a great many

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\* Black Hawk acknowledged no such destruction of his warriors; but the truth is, he was in no situation to know with any certainty the extent of the losses he and his people sustained.